

5

## **OPTICAL LINK PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Systems and methods for verifying performance at an intermediate point in an optical link are provided by virtue of one embodiment of the present invention. One application is locating a fault along a long optical link while minimizing the need for trained personnel to inspect and monitor the link at numerous widely separated locations. At an intermediate point in the link, a portion of the optical signal present is tapped off and demodulated. By use of error correction decoding techniques on the demodulated data, the performance of the link up until that intermediate point may be verified.

15